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1 of 4

SPIDER-MAN AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR

CHRISTOS
GAGE

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ALBERTI

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WHILE ATTENDING A DEMONSTRATION IN RADIOLOGY, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A SPIDER WHICH HAD ACCIDENTALLY BEEN EXPOSED TO RADIOACTIVE RAYS. THROUGH A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE, PETER SOON FOUND THAT HE HAD GAINED THE SPIDER'S POWERS...AND HAD, IN EFFECT, BECOME A HUMAN ARACHNID! FROM THAT DAY ON HE WAS ...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

REED RICHARDS, MR. FANTASTIC!
BEN GRIMM, THE THING! SUE STORM, THE INVISIBLE GIRL!
JOHNNY STORM, THE HUMAN TORCH! A TEAM — AND A FAMILY — OF ADVENTURERS, EXPLORERS AND IMAGINAUTS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR LEAD LIVES BOTH ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY!

Fantastic Four

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YEARS AGO.

"YOU'VE GOT TO
BE KIDDING ME."

"IT'S NOT EVEN A MONTH
SINCE DR. DOOM ALMOST
KILLED US IN OUR OWN HOME!
DAREDEVIL, TOO!"

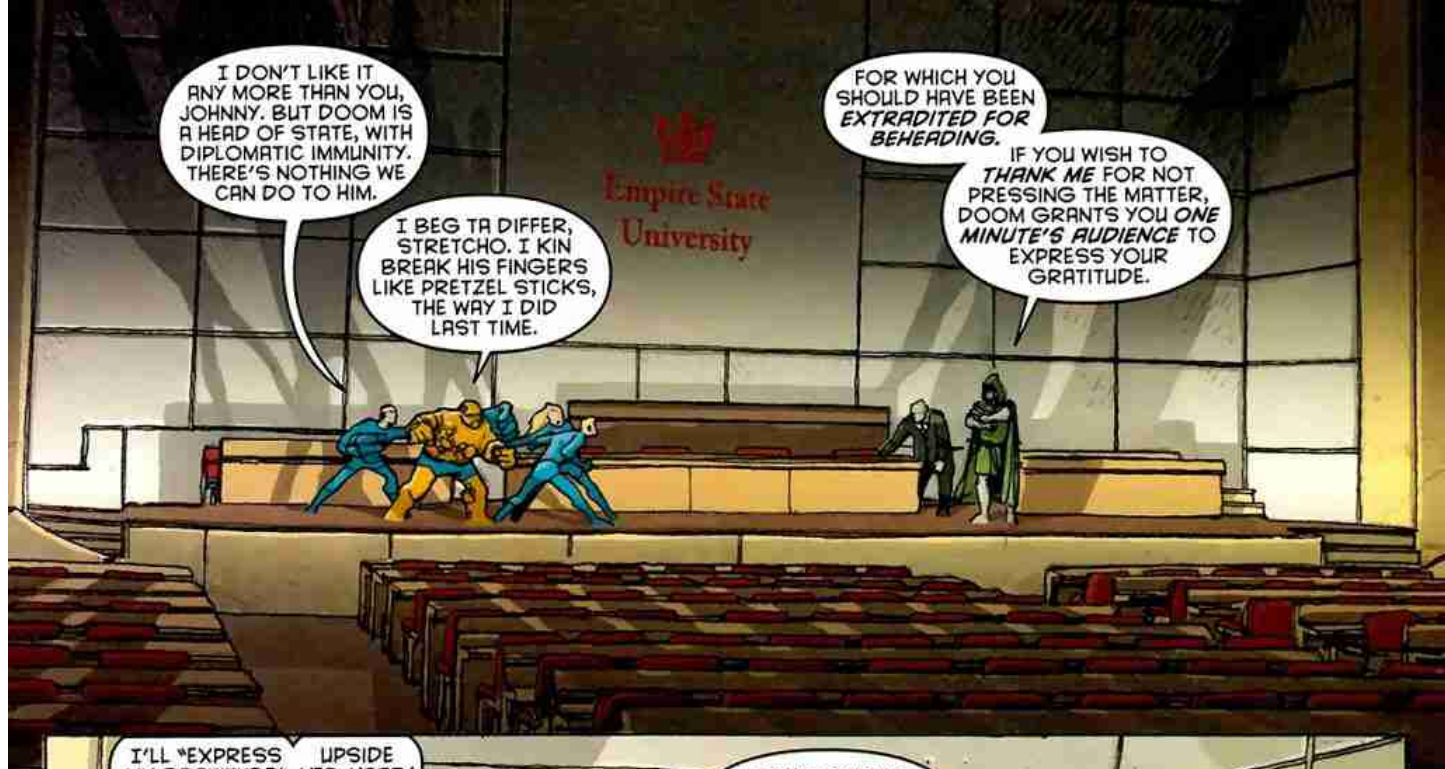


SPIDER-MAN MUST JOIN WITH **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** TO FIGHT A...

CRISIS ON CAMPUS!

**ANOTHER EPIC
TALE FROM
MARVEL COMICS!**

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I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU, JOHNNY. BUT DOOM IS A HEAD OF STATE, WITH DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO HIM.

I BEG TO DIFFER, STRETCHO. I KIN BREAK HIS FINGERS LIKE PRETZEL STICKS, THE WAY I DID LAST TIME.

FOR WHICH YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXTRADITED FOR BEHEADING.

IF YOU WISH TO THANK ME FOR NOT PRESSING THE MATTER, DOOM GRANTS YOU ONE MINUTE'S AUDIENCE TO EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE.



I'LL "EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE" YER HEAD! AWRRIGHT...

BEN! STOP IT!

PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN WHY YOU CALLED US HERE, GENERAL ROSS. BECAUSE I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I'M MORE INCLINED TO JOIN THE THING THAN RESTRAIN HIM.



THEY SAY YOU'RE THE SMARTEST MAN IN ANY ROOM, DR. RICHARDS. I HOPE THAT'S TRUE, BECAUSE THE LAST THING WE NEED RIGHT NOW IS SOMEONE DOING SOMETHING STUPID.

AS YOU POINTED OUT, DR. DOOM RULES LATVERIA. AND THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE IS VOLATILE.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY IS HOSTING A CONFERENCE OF WORLD LEADERS. DOOM AGREED TO COME HERE AND NEGOTIATE NON-AGGRESSION TREATIES WITH HIS NEIGHBORS.

THAT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD STABILIZING THE REGION, BOTH POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. WE ALL BENEFIT IF IT WORKS. BUT DOOM HAS A CONDITION.



HE WANTS YOU TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR HIM WHILE HE'S HERE.



IT AMUSES US THAT REED RICHARDS DEVOTE HIS FABLED INTELLECT TO KEEPING THE ROYAL PERSON OF DOOM SAFE FROM HARM.

THAT THE RENOWNED FANTASTIC FOUR FUNCTION AS MY LACKEYS.



THAT'S IT! I'M GONNA--

SUE? WHY'RE YOU PROTECTING HIM?

BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS TO THINK IN THIS FAMILY, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO.



THIS IS **BIGGER** THAN US, JOHNNY. WHAT YOU JUST DID WAS **RECKLESS** AND **DANGEROUS**.

THOSE TREATIES COULD BENEFIT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

REED, HE'S JUST TRYING TO **HUMILIATE** US 'CAUSE WE HANDED HIM A BEATING!



OF COURSE, YOU MAY **REFUSE**. BUT THEN I MUST REGRETFULLY INFORM THE MEDIA THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE PUSHED EASTERN EUROPE CLOSER TO **WAR**.

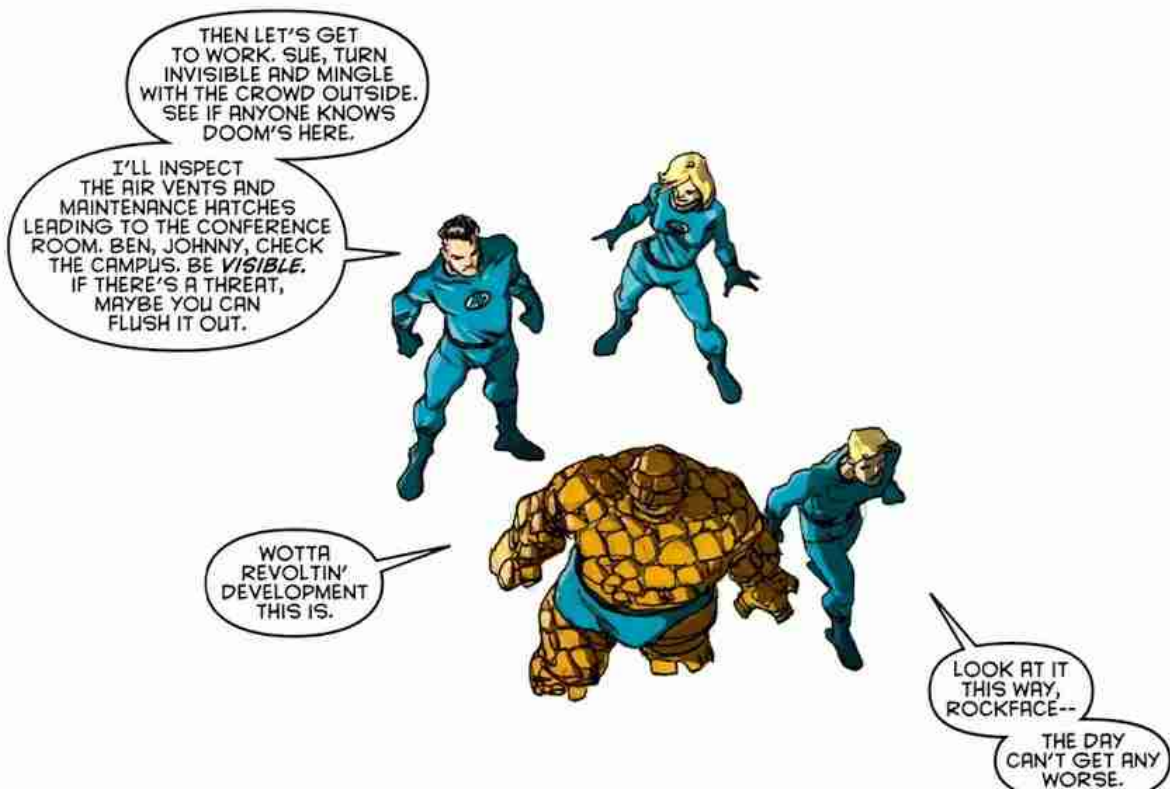
WE'LL DO IT, GENERAL ROSS. BUT WE DON'T ANSWER TO DOOM-- WE'LL DO OUR JOB AS WE SEE FIT.

FAIR ENOUGH. YOU'RE HARDLY NEW TO THIS, AND WE DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY TROUBLE. DOOM'S PRESENCE HERE IS TOP SECRET.



VERY WELL. THEN WE MAY PROCEED...

...AFTER THE HUMAN TORCH HAS **APOLOGIZED** FOR HIS INSULT.



ON THE ESU QUAD...

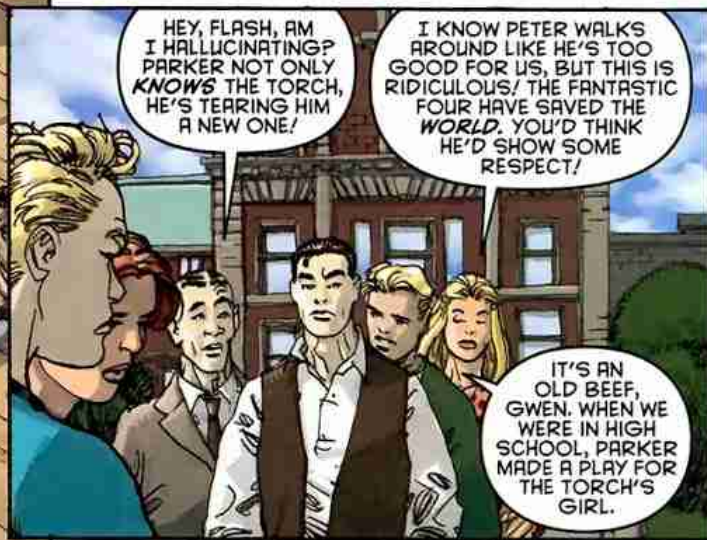


OH, COME ON! WHAT'D I DO IN A PAST LIFE TO DESERVE RUNNING INTO PETER PARKER TODAY?

I'M ENROLLED HERE, PRETTY BOY--

--JUST STARTED. MOST OF US NEED AN EDUCATION TO GET AHEAD, WE DON'T GET FAME AND FORTUNE HANDED TO US LIKE SOME PEOPLE.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? THE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE COURSE DOESN'T MEET UNTIL TONIGHT.



HEY, FLASH, AM I HALLUCINATING? PARKER NOT ONLY KNOWS THE TORCH, HE'S TEARING HIM A NEW ONE!

I KNOW PETER WALKS AROUND LIKE HE'S TOO GOOD FOR US, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE SAVED THE WORLD. YOU'D THINK HE'D SHOW SOME RESPECT!

IT'S AN OLD BEEF, GWEN. WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL, PARKER MADE A PLAY FOR THE TORCH'S GIRL.



YOU'RE KIDDING. HOW IS HE NOT A PILE OF CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES?

THINK ABOUT IT, HARRY. THE TORCH CAN'T TAKE A POKE AT PETE WITHOUT GETTING SUED, AND PARKER KNOWS IT. THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE'A DRAMA QUEENS. ALL TALK, NO ACTION.

ROMANTIC RIVALS, HMM? DON'T ASK ME WHY I CARE IF AN ARROGANT SCHOLARSHIP BABY LIKE PETER PARKER NOTICES ME... BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.



AND BEING NICE HASN'T WORKED. I GUESS IF THEY'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE DRAMA QUEENS...

EH-HEM... MR. STORM, I HATE TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR... FRIEND... BUT CAN I TROUBLE YOU FOR AN AUTOGRAPH?

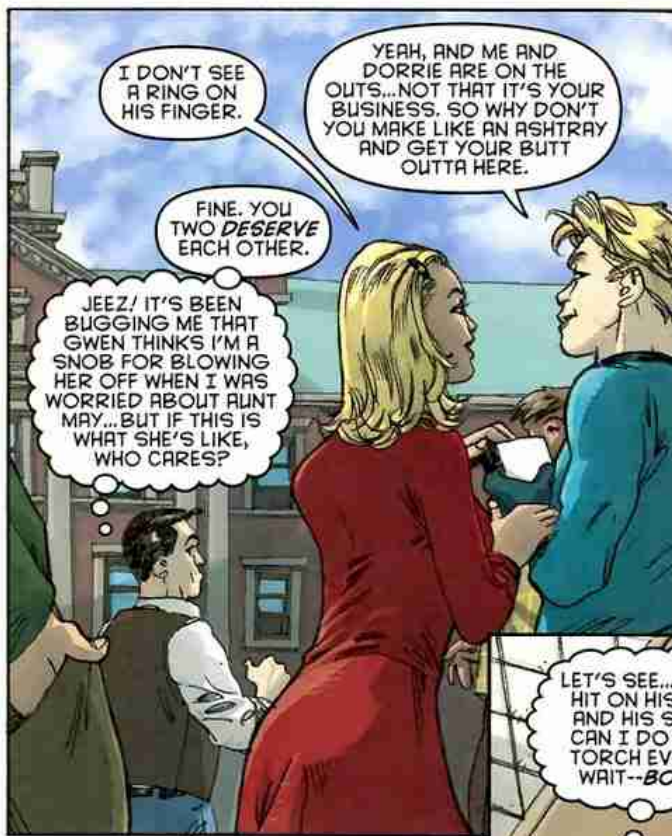
SEE WHAT YOU DID, PARKER? DISTRACTED ME FROM MY PUBLIC. ANY TIME, DOLL.



AND HERE'S SOMETHING FOR YOU. MY

FAKE PHONE NUMBER.

WATCH OUT FOR THAT GUY, GWEN. HE'S GOT A GIRL-FRIEND.

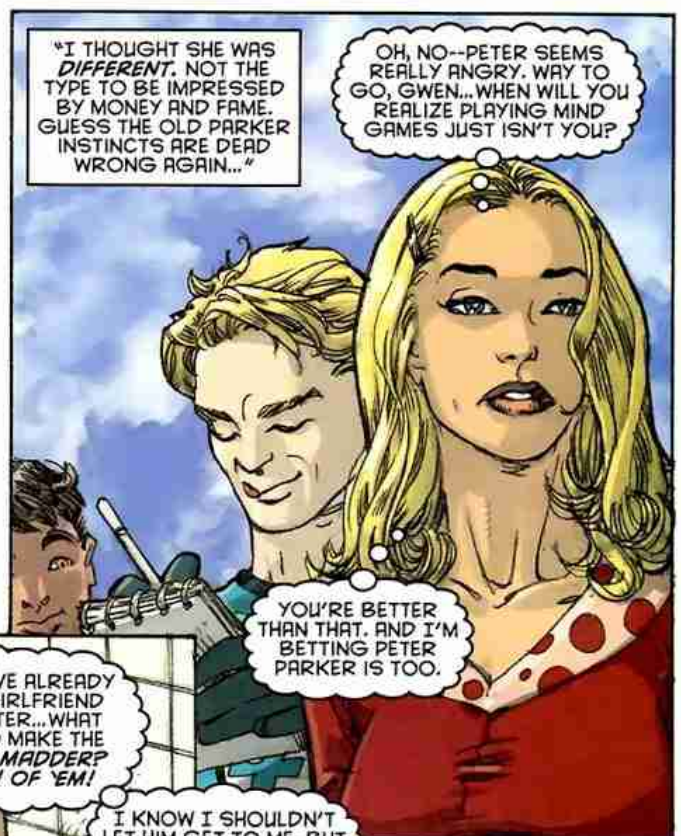


I DON'T SEE A RING ON HIS FINGER.

YEAH, AND ME AND DORRIE ARE ON THE OUTS...NOT THAT IT'S YOUR BUSINESS. SO WHY DON'T YOU MAKE LIKE AN ASHTRAY AND GET YOUR BUTT OUTTA HERE.

FINE. YOU TWO *DESERVE* EACH OTHER.

JEEZ! IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME THAT GWEN THINKS I'M A SNOB FOR BLOWING HER OFF WHEN I WAS WORRIED ABOUT AUNT MAY...BUT IF THIS IS WHAT SHE'S LIKE, WHO CARES?



"I THOUGHT SHE WAS *DIFFERENT*. NOT THE TYPE TO BE IMPRESSED BY MONEY AND FAME. GUESS THE OLD PARKER INSTINCTS ARE DEAD WRONG AGAIN..."

OH, NO--PETER SEEMS REALLY ANGRY. WAY TO GO, GWEN...WHEN WILL YOU REALIZE PLAYING MIND GAMES JUST ISN'T YOU?

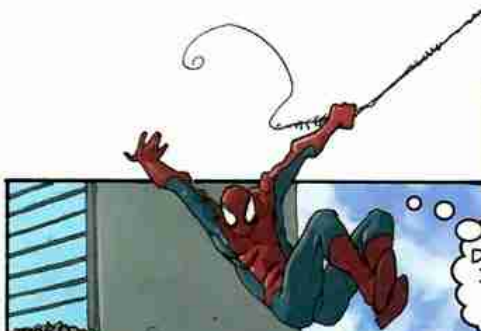
YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT. AND I'M BETTING PETER PARKER IS TOO.



LET'S SEE...I'VE ALREADY HIT ON HIS GIRLFRIEND AND HIS SISTER...WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE THE TORCH EVEN *MADDER*? WAIT--*BOTH* OF 'EM!

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T LET HIM GET TO ME, BUT IT BURNS ME UP, PEOPLE FALLING ALL OVER THEMSELVES TO KISS UP TO THAT GUY.

HE'S HAD THE WORLD HANDED TO HIM ON A SILVER PLATTER. HIS TEAMMATES DO THE HEAVY LIFTING. HE HAS ALL THE POWER...AND NONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY!



I CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER I HATE HIM...OR JUST WISH I *WAS* HIM.



WHAT'D I SAY?

BEFORE YOU OFFERED HER A RIDE ON YER POGO PLANE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE EXPLAINED WHAT IT *IS*.



IMPERIUS REX!



...I KINDA THINK
SECRECY IS OUT
THE WINDOW.

OH,
COME
ON!

BRING
VON DOOM
TO ME... SO I
CAN WRING HIS
TRAITOROUS
NECK!

NAMOR!
ARE YOU INSANE?
WE'VE TURNED
BACK YOUR ARMY
BEFORE, AND WE'LL
DO IT AGAIN
IF WE--

AH, SUSAN,
YOUR PASSION IS
AS INTOXICATING
AS EVER. BUT DON'T
FEAR. THIS IS NO
INVASION...

YES, WELL, I HOPE
THAT TAUGHT YOU
SOMETHING ABOUT
CHOOSING YOUR
ASSOCIATES.

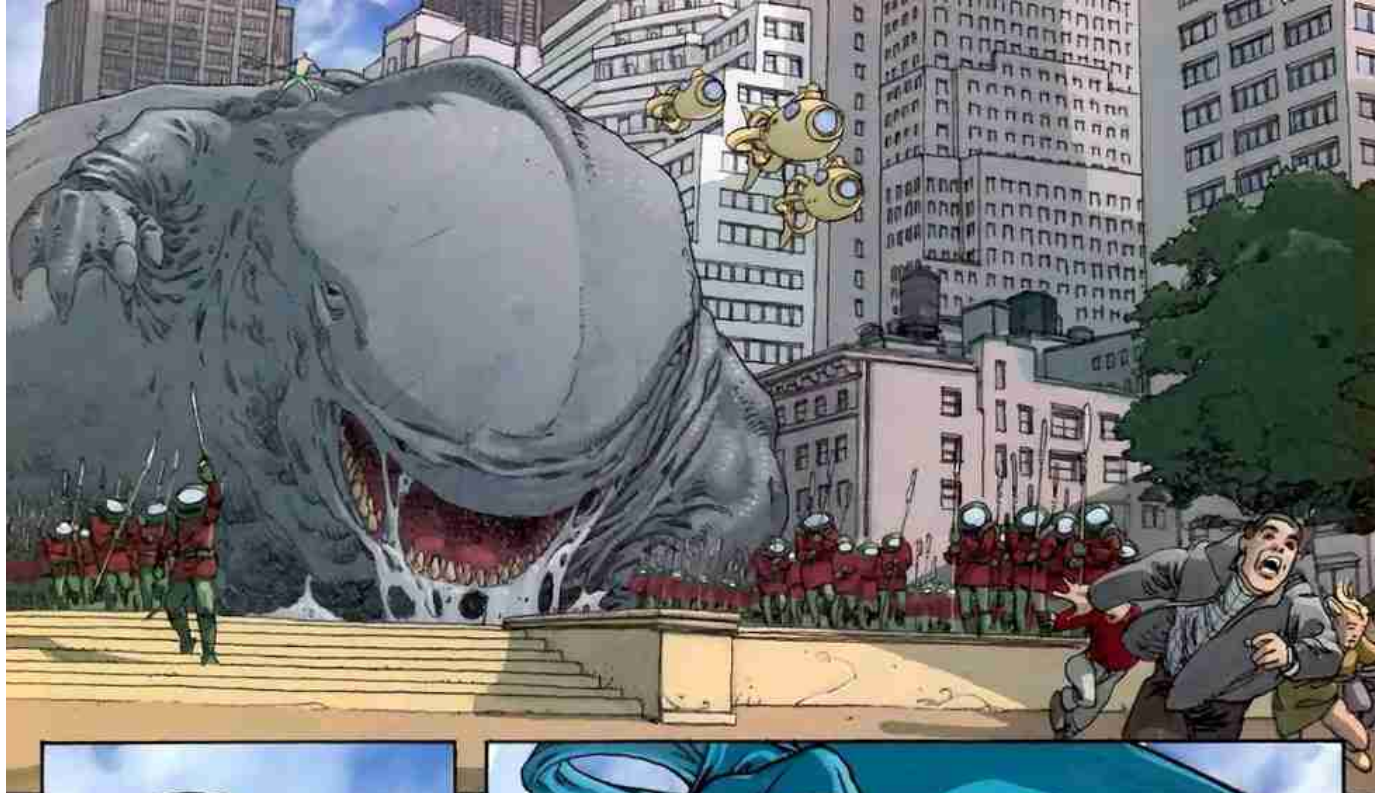
IT DID.
BUT ONE
LESSON REMAINS
UNLEARNED. THAT
HE WHO BETRAYS
THE SUB-MARINER
MUST PAY WITH
HIS LIFE!

MY QUARREL IS
WITH DOOM ALONE--
A DUEL OF HONOR.
THE ATLANTEAN ARMY
IS HERE TO ENSURE
THE COWARD
CAN'T ESCAPE.

PRESENT HIM
TO ME, AND THEY
NEED NOT ACCOST
A SINGLE SURFACE
DWELLER.

...RATHER, A MISSION
OF VENGEANCE. DOOM
AND I WERE ALLIES ONCE,
UNTIL HE TRIED TO KILL ME...
AND YOU, THOUGH HE'D
SWORN TO ME YOU'D
BE SPARED.









I WILL TRY TO RETURN *YOURS* MORE OR LESS INTACT...THOUGH I MAKE NO PROMISES.

OKAY, NOW I'M CONFUSED.



HEY, YOU IN THERE! DID WHAT I *THINK* JUST HAPPENED REALLY HAPPEN?

BELIEVE IT, WEBS. DOOM PULLED THIS *MIND-SWITCHING TRICK* ON REED A WHILE BACK. I DIDN'T KNOW HE COULD STILL DO IT.

I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE! HOW CAN ANYONE STAND TO HAVE THIS MUCH *BODY HAIR*? AND I HAVE A REAL BAD FEELING I'M *UGLY*!

THE PANIC ROOM DOOR ONLY OPENS FROM THE *INSIDE*!



OUT OF THE WAY, FOREIGNERS. I GOT PLACES TO BE.

ARE YOU *INSANE*? WE'RE SAFE IN HERE!

BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU FOUND YOUR BODY, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET BACK INTO IT?

I-I--



NUTS.

SIT TIGHT,
TORCHY. I'LL
GET YOUR BODY
BACK FOR
YOU.

MAYBE
AFTER DOOM
EMBARRASSES
YOU A LITTLE.
I MEAN, HOW BAD
COULD THINGS
REALLY--

PANIC
ROOM

--OY.

SPIDER-MAN!
THIS IS A
DISASTER!

BURN!









COME FORTH, FOOL-- AND DIE!

NOW THIS IS A ROYAL MESS.

IMPERIUS REX!

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

NAMOR, YOU IDIOT! WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER!



TIME TO TAKE A NEW APPROACH.



YES, RUN, COWARD! INSIGNIFICANCE IS YOUR SOLE DEFENSE AGAINST DOOM!



HEY, TORCHY! YOU STILL IN THERE?

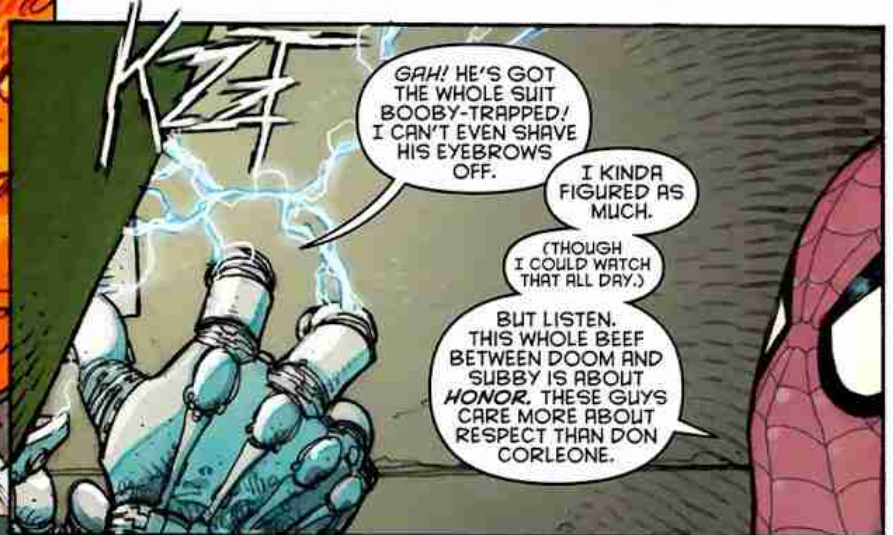
WHERE AM I GONNA GO LIKE THIS, THE BEACH?

JUST OPEN THE DOOR, SMART MOUTH.



SO I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE ON OUR SIDE. ONE HECK OF AN ACE IN THE HOLE-- DOOM'S BODY.

I THOUGHT OF THAT... BUT SO DID HE. I TRIED TAKING THIS MASK OFF TO GET A LOOK AT HOW AESTHETICALLY CHALLENGED I AM NOW, AND--



GAH! HE'S GOT THE WHOLE SUIT BOOBY-TRAPPED! I CAN'T EVEN SHAVE HIS EYEBROWS OFF.

I KINDA FIGURED AS MUCH.

(THOUGH I COULD WATCH THAT ALL DAY.)

BUT LISTEN. THIS WHOLE BEEF BETWEEN DOOM AND SUBBY IS ABOUT HONOR. THESE GUYS CARE MORE ABOUT RESPECT THAN DON CORLEONE.

AND WHAT WE HAVE THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY IS TWO OF THE BEST MINDS AT INSULTING PEOPLE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

REMEMBER THE TIME I WEBBED YOUR HANDS TO YOUR BUTT, STUCK A PEN-LIGHT IN YOUR MOUTH AND YELLED, "HEY, HE CAN FIND IT WITH TWO HANDS AND A FLASHLIGHT!"

OR WHEN YOU DREW THAT MUSTACHE ON MY SPIDER-SIGNAL?

(I'M STILL MAD ABOUT THAT. THE VULTURE LAUGHED AT ME.)

OH, MAN-- I'VE GOT IT. THIS...



...THIS IS GONNA BE EPIC.

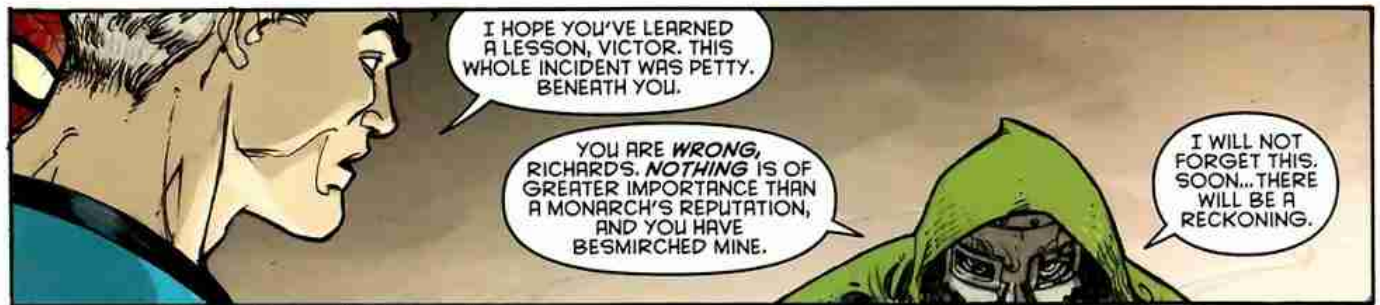
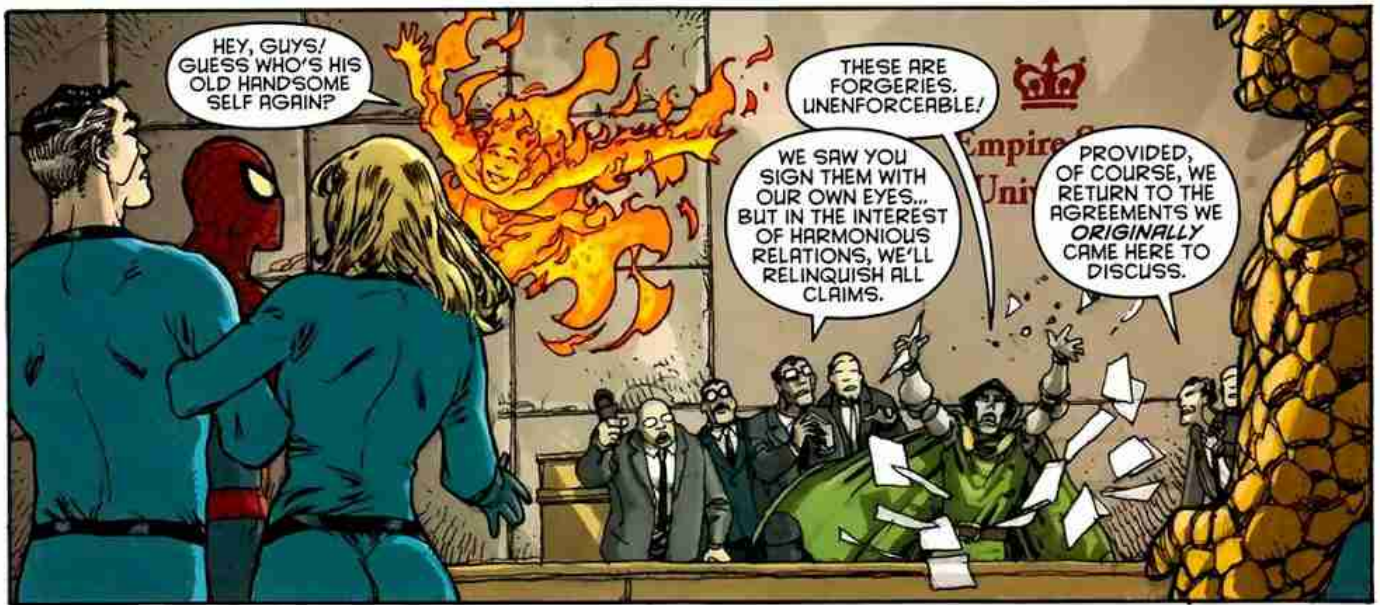
HEY, DOOMSY!
I HATE TO INTERRUPT
YOUR LITTLE BATTLE
OF THE ELEMENTS,
BUT YOU'RE GONNA
WANNA SEE THIS!

EHP?
WHAT--



--ON THE SCENE
LIVE AS DR. DOOM,
RULER OF LATVERIA,
SIGNS TREATIES WITH
HIS NEIGHBORS,
AGREEING TO HISTORIC
CONCESSIONS NO
ONE THOUGHT
POSSIBLE.





THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY,
HOURS LATER.

HALT,
INTRUDER!
YOU TRESPASS
ON THE PRIVATE
CHAMBERS OF
DOOM. THE
SENTENCE IS
DEATH--

--OH! M-MASTER?
FORGIVE ME! FOR A
MOMENT I DID NOT
RECOGNIZE--

THAT IS, I RECEIVED A
REPORT INDICATING YOU
WERE JUST NOW DEPARTING
THE UNIVERSITY. AND...
YOUR CLOTHING, IT
APPEARS...*DIFFERENT*--

BY DESIGN, IDIOT.
MISDIRECTIONS...
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.
NOW BEGONE, AND
INTERRUPT ME NO
FURTHER...OR SUFFER
MY WRATH.

Y-YES, YOUR
EXCELLENCY.
A THOUSAND
PARDONS.

SO THE BATTLE WITH
THE SUB-MARINER HAS RUN
IT'S COURSE, AND I MUST
DEPART BEFORE THIS ERA'S
DOOM RETURNS. NO MATTER.
MY SYSTEMS HAVE SCANNED
HUNDREDS OF PAGES
OF SPELLS.

AND YET THERE
ARE THOUSANDS MORE.
THIS IS TRULY AN AMAZING
OCCULT LIBRARY. MORE'S
THE PITY ITS OWNER DOES
NOT APPRECIATE IT...

...NOR REALIZE
THAT SO MANY OF
THESE BOOKS WILL BE
DESTROYED IN BATTLE,
A FEW YEARS
FROM NOW.

BUT DESPITE MY
KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT
IS TO COME, THERE IS
NOTHING I CAN DO TO
STOP IT...NOT WITHOUT
RISKING DAMAGING
THE TIMESTREAM
IRREPARABLY.

AH WELL. EVEN FOR
ONE WHO HAS MASTERED
TIME TRAVEL, FRETTERING OVER
THE PAST IS POINTLESS, FOR
IT CANNOT BE CHANGED.
FAR BETTER THAT I RETURN
TO THE *FUTURE*...

...A FUTURE
THAT IS *MINE*
TO CONQUER.

Next:
Spider
The FF vs Venom!